(b) The automobile tyres and tubes industry has been delicensed so as to encourage creation of additional capacity in order to allow market forces to have free play. There is no statutory control on prices of tyres. However, Government have placed specified categories of truck and bus tyres under O.G.L. at a reduced rate of duty for import by bulk consumers in order to keep a check on prices of tyres. In addition, Government have liberally allowed fresh capacity for the manufacture of tyres through various policy measures. Government have also ensured maximisation of tyre production through continuous monitoring and regular interaction with the tyre industry. his has led to a substantial increase in production of bus and truck tyres in 1988 viz. 48.7 lakhs as compared to 39.4 lakhs in 1987.

(c) No proposal for the expansion of capacity of Vikrant Tyres Ltd., a joint sector unit or to open more tyre manufacturing units in the public sector is ending with the Government.

Acceptance of Kelkar Committee Recommendations

*100. SHRI P.N. SUKUL
DR. (SHRIMATI) SAROJINI MAHISHI:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of recommendations of the Kelkar Committee in the main report and supplementary report which are yet to be accepted by Government ;

(b) what are the reasons for the delay in accepting these recommendations; and

(c) by when these recommendations are likely to be accepted.

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) Decisions on all the major recommendations contained in the main report and supplementary report of the Kelkar Committee have already been taken.

(b) and (c): Do not arise.

Construction of shore supply base near Kakinada Port

527. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Oil and Natural Gas Commission has agreed to construct a shore supply base near Kakinada port; and

(b) if so, by when the construction of the base is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTERY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) and (b): As and when Kakinada Port is developed, ONGC will consider establishing shore-based storage facilities there.

Appointment of Chairman, D.V.C.

528. SHRI MOHAMMED AMIN:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have consulted the West Bengal and Bihar Governments in the matter of appointment of Chairman, D.V.C. which is lying vacant since long; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and by when a decision is likly to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) and (b) The matter concerning regular appointment to the post of Chairman, DVC is under consideration and the State Governments of Bihar and West Bengal would be consulted before a Chairman is appointed.

Setting up of expert Groups for Jharia and Raniganj coalfields

529. DR. R. K. PODDAR: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry had set up any expert groups for Jharia and Raniganj coalfields to make an assessment of the existing environmental conditions there;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action has been taken to improve the environmental conditions of these two coalfields ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COAL IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI C. K. JAFFAR SHARIEF): (a), (b) and (c): The terms of reference of the two expert groups for preparation of Advance Environmental Management Plans for Jharia and Raniganj coalfields included:—

(i) Detailed assessment of the environmental impact of development of coal mines;

(ii) suggest measures for minimising the degradation of land as a result of mining operations and to finalise the plan for afforestation;

(iii) suggest pollution control measures to be taken by the coal companies to ensure that mining activity is carried out in an environmentally compatible manner;

(iv) suggest an organisational set up which would expedite land reclamation and afforestation.

The report of the Advance Environmental Planning Groups on Jharia and Raniganj coalfields have become available. These integrated Plans when approved by the Ministry of environment and forests will be implemented progressively by environment management measures forming part of future mining projects in these coalfields.

कोयल कारो पन बिजली परियोजना

530. श्री राम अवधेश सिंह : क्या ऊर्जा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) "कोयल कारो परियोजना" के 1980 में स्वीकृत हो जाने के बावजूद, उस पर अभी तक कार्य आरम्भ न किए जाने के क्या कारण हैं;

(ख) इस परियोजना पर कब तक कार्य आरम्भ हो जाने की संभावना है; और

(ग) इस परियोजना के निर्माण कार्य को आरम्भ करने में इस समय क्या-क्या कठिनाइयां पेश आ रही हैं ?

ऊर्जा मंत्रालय में विद्युत विभाग में राज्य मंत्री (श्री कल्पनाथ राय) : (क) भूमि अर्जन के विरुद्ध स्थानीय लोगों के प्रतिरोध के कारण परियोजना निर्माण कार्य के लिए भूमि की अनुपलब्धता के कारण कोयलकारो जल-विद्युत परियोजना के अवसंरचनात्मक कार्यों के अलावा किसी भी कार्य को हाथ में नहीं लिया जा सका है । दो स्थानीय व्यक्तियों के द्वारा दायर की गई याचिका के आधार पर सर्वोच्च